CLAIMS

1. A vent for a crawl space type vent opening in the wall of a building, comprising:

a front frame for engaging an outside face of the wall around the vent opening;

a rear frame connectable to the front frame with one or more tension members adapted to extend through the opening, the rear frame including an outer portion for engaging an inside face of the wall around the vent opening, the one or more tension members when connected to the front and rear frames through the vent opening being operable by a person outside to tension the front and rear frames against the wall ;

first and second swappable venting plates, each adapted to be removably secured to the front frame from outside the building, the first venting plate having a greater area for venting and the second venting plate having a reduced area for reduced venting.

2. The vent of claim 1, wherein the rear frame is removably connected to the one or more tension members and sized for insertion through the front frame and the vent opening.

3. The vent of claim 2, wherein the rear frame comprises one or more cross-members spanning the vent opening and having ends for engaging the inside surface of the wall around the vent opening.

4. The vent of claim 3, wherein the rear frame is collapsible for insertion through the front frame and the vent opening.

5. The vent of claim 4, wherein the rear frame comprises two pivotally connected cross-members.

6. The vent of claim 5, wherein the cross-members open into an X-shaped configuration.

7. The vent of claim 6, wherein the one or more tension members comprise one or more threaded rods extending between the front and rear frames.

8. The vent of claim 7, wherein the one or more threaded rods comprise four threaded rods connected to the front frame in a peripheral array conforming to the periphery of the opening, each tension member connected to the rear frame near an end of one of the cross-members.

9. The vent of claim 1, wherein at least one of the venting plates includes a screen, the screened venting plate being fastened directly to the front frame.

10. The vent of claim 1, wherein the vent further includes a receiver panel removably secured to the front frame, the receiver panel being adapted to removably receive one of the venting plates.

11. The vent of claim 10, wherein the receiver panel is further adapted to removably receive a screen.

12. The vent of claim 11, wherein the screen is received in the receiver panel behind the venting plate relative to the outside.

13. The vent of claim 10, wherein the receiver panel includes a cross-sectional slot adapted to slidingly receive a venting plate from an end of the receiver panel.

14. The vent of claim 13, wherein the receiver panel includes a second cross-sectional slot adapted to slidingly receive a screen from an end of the receiver panel.

15. The vent of claim 13, wherein a first edge of the receiver panel is tiltably secured to the front frame, and a second edge of the receiver panel is axially secured to the front frame, such that the second edge can be loosened and tilted away from the front frame to release the first edge from the front frame.

16. The vent of claim 15, wherein the first edge includes an interlock portion which is inserted axially into a vertical channel in the front frame, and rotated into and out of engagement with an interlock portion of the vertical channel to bring the second edge of the receiver panel into and out of axial securement with the front frame.

17. The vent of claim 10, wherein the receiver panel fits into a recessed portion of the front frame to lie within the vent opening.

18. The vent of claim 1, wherein the front and rear frames include overlapping, slide-adjustable wall portions defining an intermediate, adjustable box portion adapted to be installed vertically into an open-topped vent opening.

19. The vent of claim 10, wherein the adjustable wall portions surround the tension members.

20. A method for providing seasonally adjusted venting in a crawl space type vent opening in the wall of a building, comprising the steps of:

placing a front frame against an outside surface of the wall around the opening;

placing a rear frame at the rear of the opening, the rear frame being connected to the front frame through the opening by one or more tension members;

tensioning the front and rear frames against the outside face and an inside face of the wall, respectively, around the front and rear of the opening with the one or more tension members;

selecting a first venting plate from a set of at least two swappable venting plates of different venting capacity and removably installing the first venting plate on the front frame.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the rear frame is inserted through the front frame and the vent opening from the outside of the building, the rear frame is connected to the front frame from the outside of the building, and the front and rear frames are tensioned against the wall using the one or more tension members from the outside of the building.